

March

Magic Lantern Society **NEWS**



Check These Out

Watch for next months issue featuring

- more upcoming events
- some observations about eBay
- information about the upcoming convention

NOTE

From Society President

Due to personal reasons, Dick Moore is unable to continue as President of the Society. He has asked the other officers to fulfill his presidential duties for the remainder of his term that ends this May. We wish Dick and Sara the best and hope they will be able to be active in the Society again soon."

Please contact either:

Larry Cederblom, Vice President (designerlc@comcast.net) or Ron Easterday, Secretary/Treasurer (secretary-treasurer@magiclantern-society.org) concerning society business or questions.

Hope to see you at the convention



More Convention Information

Help us share information by using this newsletter. This publication will be published monthly and can be used by society members to inform others of upcoming events and other interesting items. Send those images and stories to Larry at designerlc@comcast.net

Early Registration ends March 31. And sales tables are going fast!

Welcome New Members

November 2009

Richard Beards

Kirkwood, PA

Mr. Beards has a PhD in English Literature from University of Washington and has family on Bainbridge Island, so he is an honorary member of the NW Corner. He is currently a Professor at Temple University in Philadelphia.

Interests - Lanterns: IKA (Dresden) Germany; Slides: Stephan Foster Music, German WW I.

Rafael de Luna Freire

Niteroi, RJ, Brazil

Rafael, a PhD Film student, saw a magic lantern show in LA during the Fall of 2009. He soon thereafter purchased a magic lantern and hopes to give shows now that he is back in Brazil.

Interests - Lanterns; Slides, Kinetic Devices; Vintage Cinema: Brazilian silent movies.

Melanie A. Ranney

Santa Fe, NM

Teacher - elementary school - music and poetry.

Interests - Lanterns: Balopticon; Slides: young children's, Victorian, stories, animals, whimsy.

See the story and pictures about Melanie's first ML show in the February 2010 email newsletter.

December 2009

Sanne Capion Hansen

København V, Denmark

Student at Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts - School of Conservation, working on a research paper on the subject of *laterna magica*.

Interests - Slides; Literature.

January 2010

Ella Simmons

Portland, OR

Substance abuse counselor.

Interests - Lanterns; Slides: Scenic, Victorian period, cats, musicians/singers; Literature: books, magazines; Kinetic Devices: Kinora, Zetrotrope, stereopticon; Vintage Cinema: Silent movies. She also owns Victrolas and belongs to Oregon Territory Antique Phonograph Society

Julian Corbett

Sherman Oaks, CA

12 year old student.

Interests - Lanterns; Slides; Literature; Kinetic Devices; Vintage Cinema.

Dr. Charles Miller

Huntingdon Valley, PA

Psychologist.

Interests - Slides: Related to Tin Pan Alley songsters; Literature: Anything related to James Kendis sheet music.

February 2010

Cynthia Miller

Canton, MA

Currently Professor at Emerson College; Director of Communications Center for the Study of Film and History University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

Interests - Slides: Travelogue; Literature: Lantern use in traveling shows, travelogues, lantern-to-film era; Vintage Cinema.

Currently researching travelogues: "what I'm hoping to explore were lantern travelogues presented as part of traveling shows in the US, of "adventure" travel (Africa, Solomon Islands, Borneo, etc.), in the early 1900s - from what I understand, around the same time that film clips were being combined with lantern slides in these shows. I'm working on Martin Johnson (in Kansas), but the key figure around this time would be Burton Holmes."

Michael Resnick

New York, NY

Interests: Lanterns: Biunial, toy; Slides: Hand painted, photographic; Literature: comic, advertising, story, historical, coming attraction; Kinetic Devices; Vintage Cinema

Ross Ney

Watertown, NY

Mr. Ney is a broadcast engineer and part time theater projectionist.

Interests: Lanterns; Slides; Literature; Vintage Cinema: Large format, stereo, wooden.

From the Members

Slides

I happened to purchase a glass lantern slide of Ira and George Gershwin a while back. My wife teaches at the Lawrence Academy of Music here in Appleton so I made a print of the slide and framed it as a gift to the school. They chose to use the photograph in a contest for the students. The students had to guess who the photograph was of and then submit a brief essay on the gentlemen. There were many delightful essays submitted and four were chosen as winning entries.



In inventorying my slide collection I came across two from the Bellingrath Gardens and Home in Theodore, Alabama. The slides had been included in sets that I had purchased because of other slides in the sets that I wanted. I contacted the Bellingrath executive director and have donated the two slides to them for their use.

Attorney Thomas H. Sutter
Appleton, WI 54911

Tuesday, December 08, 2009

Illustrated Song Seminar

I recently gave a seminar on the history of the illustrated song at the West Coast Ragtime Festival. I had an SRO crowd. Two songs were performed by a recreation of an historic group I organized. This group sang in movie theaters in Chicago in the early 1910s.



The following day, 2 of the artists put on a show of all illustrated songs, it was also a hit. I had an exhibit as well, with period artifacts on display. I am sending some pics.

Galen Wilkes



more member contribution next page

Magic Lanterns to China

by Gregg Millett

In November 2009 I took three heavy suitcases to China filled with magic lanterns and glass slides. For much of 2008 and 2009 I had purchased these items from members of the Magic Lantern Society and from the internet. Before the trip to China, many of these lanterns were on display at our Edison Exploratorium in Schenectady, New York, and while they were there, a young engineer retrofitted the carbon-arc projector to function. He made a video of the lanterns which you can find on U-Tube by typing in "Magic Lantern Edison."

Although these materials had been destined for our glass-slide exhibition in Kunming, at the last minute my China connection, Mr. Jin Fei Bao, informed me that the Kunming Exhibition was finished. He instructed me to deliver the suitcases to the National Museum of China in Beijing. The delivery was not difficult because we were met at the Beijing airport by a delegation from the National Museum and they hosted and toasted us for the next four days. They presented me with a certificate of appreciation along with the hope that, as soon as the museum is reopened (it has been closed for major renovations for the past three years), there will be a magic lantern exhibition. This exhibition will also include the glass slide images of China which I collected as well as digital images of the Wilmer States and Harry Ostrander glass slides that are in the archives of the Schenectady Museum.

So maybe it's back to China in 2010! Thanks to all of the Magic Lantern Society members who helped me with this project.

Gregg Millett
www.GreggMillett.com

Feb 12, 2010

speech script for publication and to present at the opening of the Kunming exhibition.

A Colorful Connection with Kunming

by Gregg Millett

Mayor Zhang Zulin and honorable members of the Municipal Government of Kunming and all of you gathered here today:

I bring you greetings from the Mayor of Schenectady, New York -- Brian U. Stratton.

Five years ago, in May 2004, I was here in Kunming welcoming you to the exhibition of my father's colored photographs of Kunming. My father, Dr. Clinton Millett was a US Army doctor. He led a hospital convoy across the Burma Road and served in Kunming until the end of World War II. While here he took the earliest known colored photographs of China (right here in Kunming). And these photographs are now at the National Museum of China. Many of you know about this because there was a lot of press coverage of the exhibition and 300,000 Kunming citizens came to the exhibition.

Now I am here today welcoming you to another exhibition of color photographs of China. How did this happen?

In English there is an expression -- "finding a needle in a haystack" -- that means if you have a big stack of hay, and there is a needle in it, your chances of finding the needle (or the thing you are looking for) is very small. In 2004 I sent e-mails to every address in Kunming that I could find on the internet -- and I got an answer back which said, "I can help you." It was great luck that I found my "needle in a haystack," and his name is Mr. Jin Fei Bao.

Mr. Jin Fei Bao organized the 2004 exhibition and welcomed me and my granddaughter, Krystal, to Kunming. Then he organized a second Kunming exhibition, wrote a book on my Dad's old photographs and the history of the times -- a time when the bombing of Kunming was stopped by the Flying Tigers and the US and China stood shoulder to shoulder in the war. Then Fei Bao took the old photographs to the Pingyao International Photography Exhibition and to the National Museum of China. While he was doing all of this he also climbed Mt. Everest, the highest mountains on the other six continents, skied to the North and South Poles and crossed the Sahara Desert in Africa!

But back to this exhibition! How did it happen? In 2005 Jin Fei Bao and his wife Li Jia came to visit us in America. During their visit Fei Bao gave a speech at our Schenectady Museum in New York. His speech was given to the US-China Peoples Friendship Association which was holding it's National Convention in Schenectady and the Schenectady Museum was also having an exhibition of my Dad's 1945 photographs. The day after Fei Bao's speech we got a call from the Schenectady Museum. They told us that they had some colored glass slide photographs of China in their archives that we might be interested in seeing. So the next day we went to the museum and

continued next page

inspected the photographs. Fei Bao shook his head and said, "My goodness, this is another treasure!"

The glass slides from this collection were taken in 1911 along the coast of China by Harry Ostrander. In the summer he would travel the world and in the winter he gave presentations all over the United States. His photographs were black and white but he had them hand painted -- which was a very highly developed craft of the times. Then the glass slides were shown by a projector known as a Magic Lantern. Harry Ostrander gave more than 4,000 presentations in the US during his career. Before radio, television, movies and the internet, this was the way that the people in the US learned about China.

I'll tell you one short story about the photographer Harry Ostrander, that was discovered by his great niece, Gail Bundy.

Over one hundred thirty years ago in a rural in Seneca County, New York, USA, a seven year old school boy opened a new geography book. Leafing through the woodcut illustrations, he became entranced with the drawing of a Chinese boy about his own age. The Chinese boy was wearing a "curled-up hat", and he stood in front of a house with a "curled-up roof". As that young New York boy studied the picture over and over, he wanted to know everything he could about that Chinese boy and about that Chinese house and about the country where the Chinese boy lived. And so, Harry Clark Ostrander's curiosity about the world outside his small rural village began to grow

Since we found Harry Ostrander glass slides at the Schenectady Museum, I have been exploring the history of early photographs of China, and I have been collecting glass slides, cameras, magic lanterns, stereoviews and early motion pictures. In this search I have been helped by the Schenectady Museum, The Magic Lantern Society of the United States of Canada, The Edison/Steinmetz Center in Schenectady, the New York State Museum in Albany, New York and private collectors of glass slides, Rob Oeschle from Okinawa and Tom Rall from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The results of my search are on display at this "Centennial Exhibiton."

Before I finish I want to introduce the people who have come with me on this historic visit:

First my granddaughter, Krystal, who came with me to the 2004 exhibition, and has come from her home in the state of Alaska.

My nephew, Jesse, who came here to live with Fei Bao and Li Jia for six months after the 2004 exhibition; returned to the US and changed his college studies to Chinese history and language; then studied for a semester at the University of Yunnan; then taught English for a year in Daqing in the Province of Heilongjiang, and has come here overland Malaya, Thailand and Laos.

Jesse's mother Kathleen -- who is here to share this experience with her son, with our group and with all of you.

Gail Bundy, a great niece of the photographer Harry Ostrander. Gail comes from New York and is now doing research on the life of her Great Uncle. It is Gail's family that gave the colored glass slide collection of Harry Ostrander to the Schenectady Museum.

Marilyn Barrett, also a great niece of Harry Ostrander. Marilyn comes from Boston, Massachusetts and teaches school on an island off the east coast of the US named Nantucket.

Mara Shapiro is a nurse and comes from Denver, Colorado. She brings greetings to Kunming from Denver which is a sister-city with Kunming.

Neil Levine is a past president of the Schenectady Museum and one of the community leaders in Schenectady and the Capital District of New York which not only includes Schenectady, but also the cities of Albany, Troy and Saratoga.

And finally, Kerry Orlyck. Kerry is the Executive Director of our Schenectady Museum and without her support we would not be holding this wonderful exhibition.

I will finish by saying: I believe my father's photographs began a heart-felt connection between the people of Kunming and the people in Schenectady. I hope this exhibition, and our visit, will extend and deepen these connections. I hope we establish a sister-city relationship between Kunming and Schenectady and I have a document here, signed by Mayor Zhang Zulin and Mayor Brian U. Statton, which is a first step in this relationship.

I hope that long after I am gone, people from Schenectady will be taking colorful photographs of Kunming and that people from Kunming will be taking colorful photographs of Schenectady and that we will build many bridges of friendship between our cities and between our countries.

I "tip my hat" to my father and I welcome you to the exhibition. Thank you.



Convention Information

Just a reminder that a lot of the members will be congregating at the Marriott for the convention in May.

Suggestion

Book your reservation for the long term stay (5 nights) for the rate of \$85/night + tax. A lot better than \$139 + tax, for four nights.

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/bmgcy-courtyard-bloomington/>

Direct phone at Courtyard Marriott
(812)335-8000 or reservations 1-800-321-2211.

Chromatropes Wanted for Convention

This is your chance to have one or more of you fantastic chromatrope slides featured at the Grand Optical Variety Show as part of the Convention this spring in Bloomington. Joss and David are looking for chromatropes to borrow for use in-between acts. This will be a public show in the historic Buskirk-Chumley Theater. If you have a chromatrope you are willing to loan for a few hours, let David and Joss know and bring it to the convention. They will treat it with tender loving care.

Some Highlites

- Nickelodeon Show
- Finding the Lost Lanternists
- Grand Optical Variety Show
- Workshop: Keys to Successful Showmanship

And many more...

LAST CALL!

One or two short spots available in the Grand Optical Variety Show! Don't be shy--any subject welcome, in the best tradition of the variety show! Our chance to put across the magic of the lantern to an unsuspecting general audience! Your chance to showcase a perfect chromatrope, if not a short act!

By the same token, one or two spots available in our research sessions!

And--news flash--one or two spots available in the informal "Show-and-Tell"/"Work in Progress" session you, our members, have asked specially requested.

Looking forward to seeing you in the the welcoming, comfortable and optically mad Mid-West-- Joss and David

Early Registration ends March 31. And sales tables are going fast!

From Tom Ralls



Check their web site for more information

<http://antiquephotoshow.com/>